

NOAA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
Statement of International Goals
November 2005

EXERCISING INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

A world with rapidly shifting political, cultural, and economic dynamics requires federal agencies involved in world affairs to cultivate fresh approaches and new services to maintain U.S. leadership. As the influence and use of Earth's oceans and atmosphere affect the economies and ecosystems of every nation, the domain of NOAA's activities naturally extends across national and continental boundaries. Whether leading worldwide collaboration in integrating global observations, guiding regional activities in managing marine and water resources, or simply collaborating in scientific endeavors, NOAA is a major player in international efforts to meet environmental and ecosystem challenges. Consequently, we recognize the value of our international partners, as we learn from their experiences and benefit by working together on common issues. (NOAA Strategic Plan 2005-2010)

NOAA INTERNATIONAL POLICY GOALS

Internationally, we support and promote policies and interests in ecosystem-based management, climate science, Earth observation, water management, and weather forecasting. Our strategy is to foster the active leadership of interagency and international environmental programs and policies, consistent with our agency's goals. We work to leverage multilateral and bilateral relationships to take full advantage of the development and use of research, observations, environmental science, and ecosystems management.

OVERARCHING GOALS FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Improve free and open exchange of data between countries.
- Improve stewardship of natural resources through international cooperation.
- Promote decision-making based upon science and observational data.
- Increase partnership in research and science.
- Increase exchange of expertise and knowledge between countries.
- Increase creative application of NOAA expertise in diverse contexts.
- Meet U.S. Government responsibilities under legislative and international commitments.
- Prepare and respond to natural resource emergencies abroad in support of U.S. foreign policy and at the request of foreign governments.
- Foster cost-sharing opportunities with other nations to carry out global scale science and stewardship programs.
- Exercise leadership and advance U.S. Government interests through multilateral and bilateral engagement.

INTERNATIONAL GOALS ATTENDANT TO NOAA MISSION GOALS

Work with other U.S. Government agencies, foreign partners, and intergovernmental organizations in support of the following NOAA Mission Goals and Crosscutting Priorities.

Ecosystem Goal

- Promote ecosystem-based management in multilateral and bilateral fora.
- Promote Large Marine Ecosystem as regional unit in multilateral and bilateral fora.
- Promote partnerships under White Water to Blue Water in Wider Caribbean and other regions.
- Form new international partnerships to enhance corals management.
- Foster, within all RFMOs, sustainable fisheries harvests and compliance with RFMO fishery management measures.
- Support research and surveys of and work to protect deep-sea coral communities.
- Promote international conservation of all protected species.
- Support integrated oceans management and the reduction of land-based pollution and marine debris.
- Integrate trade considerations with living marine resource management.
- Utilize the principles reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention to promote NOAA Objectives.
- Support the U.S. Ocean Action Plan by expanding the international application of the Sea Grant model.

Climate Change

- Describe and understand the state of the climate system through integrated observations, analysis and data stewardship;
- Improve climate predictive capability from weeks to decades, with an increased range of applicability for management and policy decisions;
- Reduce uncertainty in climate projections through timely information on forcing and feedbacks contributing to changes in the earth's climate;
- Understand and predict the consequences of climate variability and change on marine ecosystems;
- Increase the international availability and use of climate products and services to enhance public and private sector decision-making.

Weather and Water

- Improve weather forecasting through data exchange and international cooperation.
- Improve flood and drought forecasting through international cooperation.
- Demonstrate to the international community the value of integrated water resource management.
- Increase knowledge of global geophysical international parameters as they relate to NOAA forecast models.

- Increase coordination of weather and water information systems with integration of local, regional and global observing systems.
- Complete and coordinate a Tsunami Warning System plan for the Indian Ocean region.

Commerce and Transportation

- Promote U.S. approaches to navigation and port management to support global trade and safe, efficient and environmentally sound navigation.
- Meet international legal obligations and commitments and enable the U.S. to assert its international rights, including continental shelf claims.

Mission Support

- Support activities that ensure continuous observation of critical environmental conditions.
- Support activities that provide secure, reliable, and robust information flows with our international partners.
- Assure legally sound approaches to meeting U.S. international obligations and asserting U.S. international rights.
- Develop and coordinate consistent objectives for NOAA's international engagements at the bilateral, regional and/or global levels.
- Facilitate timely coordinated U.S. Government policy and program guidance to NOAA leadership in preparation of international meetings and visits.
- Ensure, as appropriate, NOAA access to foreign data from ships, aircraft, satellites, and platforms.

INTERNATIONAL GOALS ATTENDANT TO CROSSCUTTING PRIORITIES

Developing, Valuing, and Sustaining a World-Class Workforce

- Encourage secondment of NOAA employees to international scientific, diplomatic or policy assignments and selection of NOAA employees to leadership positions within international organizations.

Integrating Global Environmental Observations and Data Management:

- Advance efforts of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) to meet its objectives, including those of its Plenary, Executive Committee, Committees and Secretariat.
- Advance the development and implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).
- Provide support to the Under Secretary in his capacity as GEO Co-chair to develop the cooperation and agreements necessary for an effective GEO partnership, including bilateral and multilateral arrangements that contribute to the development of GEOSS.
- Facilitate efforts to improve and integrate NOAA's observing data and information management capabilities, particularly as they contribute to the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System, which is the U.S. contribution to the GEOSS.

- Identify Earth observation requirements, develop approaches to meet those needs, and improve capacity.
- Improve the visibility and recognition given to the importance of using Earth observation data and products to enhance the ability to meet society's needs, particularly those for environmental monitoring and meeting sustainable development goals.

Ensuring Sound, State-of-the-Art Research

- Ensure NOAA's world class leadership status in environmental research and science through strategic international engagements, exchanges, collaborations, and partnerships.

Promoting Environmental Literacy

- Engage the academic community and promote environmental science literacy through the integration of education and outreach with university based research.
- Utilize the Sea Grant model internationally to build capacity and promote lifelong learning through a network of institutions dedicated to applying the knowledge and technologies that lead to sustainable coastal and marine resource development and conservation.